

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2006-05
February 10, 2005

SUBJECT: *Phytophthora ramorum* (ramorum blight & dieback, sudden oak death); Listing and Regulation of Plants Recently Reported with *P. ramorum*

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On February 14, 2002, APHIS published an interim rule in the Federal Register for *P. ramorum* (7 CFR 301.92). This rule regulates the interstate movement of restricted and regulated articles to prevent the artificial spread of this disease-causing organism from areas where the disease is established. We also issued an Emergency Federal Order dated December 21, 2004, to regulate certain nurseries and plants to prevent the spread of the pathogen through nursery plants.

The purpose of this SPRO is to provide notification that APHIS will be regulating certain new species, effective February 20, 2006. This action is necessary as we have learned that:

- Certain additional plant taxa can be infected by *P. ramorum* and need to be regulated in order to control the artificial spread of this disease.
- Koch's postulates have been completed on three species so we have moved those from the list of "plants associated with *Phytophthora ramorum*" to the list of "proven regulated hosts".
- And we have refined some of the nomenclature to stay current and correct and to clearly communicate our intent of what plants we regulate.

Finally, an important note for the record; Canada detected a naturally infected *Rhododendron* sp. which has the characteristics commonly applied to azaleas. Though we have regulated all *Rhododendron* species since 2002, this is the first documented incident of naturally infected "azalea".

Attached is the "Federal Domestic Quarantine Order" which identifies those plants to be added to those regulated for *P. ramorum* in the Emergency Federal Order dated December 21, 2004, and the "APHIS List of Regulated Hosts and Plants Associated with *Phytophthora ramorum*".

/s/ **Paul R. Eggert** for

Richard L. Dunkle
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

FEDERAL DOMESTIC QUARANTINE ORDER *PHYTOPHTHORA* *RAMORUM*; 7 CFR 301.92

We received information from Washington State University and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency that they had identified plants associated with *P. ramorum* not previously reported. Washington State reported *Abies magnifica* – Pinaceae (red fir) and Canada reported twelve new species, listed below. Koch's Postulates have not yet been completed for these plants, so they can not yet be listed as proven hosts of *P. ramorum*. The plants added are:

- *Abies magnifica*
 - Family: Pinaceae (pine family)
 - Common name: red fir
 - Symptoms: leaf blight, tip dieback
- *Acer davidii*
 - Family: Aceraceae (Maple tree family)
 - Common name: striped bark maple
 - Symptom: leaf blight
- *Ardisia japonica*
 - Family: Myrsinaceae (Myrsine family)
 - Common name: ardisia
 - Symptom: leaf blight
- *Euonymus kiautschovicus*
 - Family: Celastraceae (Staff-tree family)
 - Common name: spreading euonymus
 - Symptom: leaf blight, tip die-back
- *Gaultheria shallon*
 - Family: Ericaceae (Heath family)
 - Common names: salal, Oregon wintergreen
 - Symptom: leaf blight
- *Hamamelis x intermedia* (*H. mollis* & *H. japonica*)
 - Family: Hamamelidaceae (Witchhazel family)
 - Common name: hybrid witchhazel
 - Symptom: leaf blight
- *Leucothoe axillaris*
 - Family: Ericaceae (Heath family)
 - Common names: fetter-bush, dog hobble
 - Symptom: leaf blight
- *Magnolia grandiflora*
 - Family: Magnoliaceae (Magnolia family)
 - Common name: Southern magnolia
 - Symptom: leaf blight
- *Michelia maudiae*
 - Family: Magnoliaceae (Magnolia family)
 - Common name: Michelia
 - Symptom: leaf blight

- *Michelia wilsonii*
 - Family: Magnoliaceae (Magnolia family)
 - Common name: Michelia
 - Symptom: leaf blight
- *Osmanthus decorus* (= *Phillyrea decora*; = *P. vilmoriniana*)
 - Family: Oleaceae (Olive family)
 - Common name: Osmanthus
 - Symptom: leaf blight
- *Prunus lusitanica*
 - Family: Rosaceae (Rose family)
 - Common name: Portuguese laurel cherry
 - Symptom: leaf blight
- *Rosa rugosa*
 - Family: Rosaceae (Rose family)
 - Common name: rugosa rose
 - Symptom: leaf blight

As an interim measure, these plants are added to those under regulation as per PPQ Emergency Federal Order (Order) dated December 21, 2004, affecting the movement of nursery stock from the States of Washington, Oregon and California. Those nurseries operating under a compliance agreement may continue to ship Hosts and Associated Plants including the newly listed plants. Any other nurseries containing these newly listed associated plants must be properly inspected, sampled and tested and placed under a Compliance Agreement by February 27, 2006 to be able to move plants interstate.

As Koch's postulates have now been completed, *Frangula purshiana* (formally listed as *Rhamnus purshiana*), *Adiantum aleuticum*, and *Adiantum jordanii* which had been regulated as nursery stock (as above) are now regulated hosts added to those under regulation as per Federal Regulation dated February 14, 2002.

This action is authorized by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States.